By Ken Feil—The Washington Post

Demonstrators protesting the convictions in the "Chicago Seven" trial march down Independence Avenue.

Police Scatter 2,000 in March

A boisterous and seemingly aimless crowd of 2,000 Chicago Seven protesters unexpectedly turned a march on police headquarters yesterday into a circuitous and occasionally violent parade along the etire lengthh of the Mall.

Upwards of 600 police were deployed through the Mall area to control the demonstrators. Several hundred officers, guided by a police observer in a helicopter overhead, succeeded inoutflanking a march in the direction of the White house and broke the rowd intoosmaller groups.

There were 112 arrests in all, some of them made after about 30 demonstrators ran through the Smithsonian's Museum of History and Technology. No serious injuries were reported.

Some windows were broken along the route of the parade, some rocks and bottles were thrown at police and some demonstrators were clubbed.

But, for the most part, the demonstration contrasted sharply in its lack of confrontation with Thursday's march on the Watergate apartments in Foggy Bottom.

The mood of the crowd was angry at times and its direction during most of the hour-long trek from the foot of Capitol Hill to the Ellipse was undiscernable. There appeared to be no real leadership, other than a small vanguard of banner-waving protestors who at times were unable to agree on where to go.

But the crowd remained in close ranks during most of the entire unscheduled portion of the parade, from police headquarters at 300 Indiana Ave. to the Ellipse.

The loosely organized sponsors, called The Conspiracy, had obtained a permit to march only as far as headquarters to protest the Chicago Seven convictions.

The crowd estimate of 2,000

was made by Deputy Chief Owen Davis, head of the police special operations division. The marchers appeared to pick up strength of numbers after leaving a 1 p.m. rally at a small park at Constitution Avenue and 9th Street.

The crowd was predominately white and college-age and their mood was reflected by the almost continuous chanting of obscenities as they passed lines of police and spectators. At the start, there were a number of middle-aged demonstrators but most of them did not join the parade following the rally at 9th Street and Constitution Avenue.

At the rally, the group heard a number of speakers condemn the conviction Thursday of five of the men tried in Chicago on charges of intent to incite a riot during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Among the speakers was attorney William Kunstler, whose jail sentence for contempt was stayed until May.

Kunstler told the group, "There isn't anything that's going to change anything in this country unless the people are in the streets."

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A policeman hauls demonstrator away near Monument.

The march to police headquarters began at 3 p.m. when the vanguard, helmeted and carrying gas masks, interrupted speeches parodying President Nixon and cabinet members and shouted, "Let's go. No more speeches!"

Winding north on 10th Street past the Justice Department and east on Pennsylvania Avenue to 6th Street, the paraders chanted obscenities and conspiracy slogans but order was maintained by motorcycle-mounted civil disturbance unit officers riding along the edge of the route.

The parade moved north on 6th Street to Indiana Avenue and stopped briefly in front of headquarters, at 300 Indiana Ave. Dozens of CBU officers ringed the front of headquarters as the demonstrators paused and a planned "human ring to jail the jail" failed to materialize.

It was at this point, according to the terms of a parade permit granted by the District government, that the parade was to have ended.

However, the line of march then moved unexpectedly along 3d Street, across Consittution and Pennsylvania Avenues and to Independence Avenue, at where it turned west. There was no concerted leadership or direction in evidence and the extension of end headquarters apparently was not planned.

A few demonstrators, in fact, broke off and went in different directions on the Mall.

A small contingent of police riding scouters and motorcycles with the inpromptu parade.

While a police helicopter hovered overhead reporting the direction of the parade, relatively small CDU details cropped up at various intersections along Independence Avenue.

In an attempt to outflank the parade a contingent of several dozen police sped ahead of the demonstrators and formed a shoulder-to-shoulder line across 14th Street at Independence.

As the group passed the Department of Agriculture, nearing the police line, a few demonstrators threw rocks and a bottle at policemen riding scooters. The incident drew no response from the officers, who immediately left the area.

When the parade reached the line, the demonstrators suddenly broke into a run across the Washington Monument grounds and toward the Monument itself. A detail of park policemen turned and ran to the other side of the Monument and the demonstrators headed across the grounds in the direction of the White House.

As they moved, 100 or more white-helmeted policemen could be seen ringing the White House and moving the groups toward Constitution Avenue from the Ellipse.

The units then established a line on Constitution from 14th to 15th Streets, while other groups converged on the Mall behind the demonstrators from Independence Avenue.

The effect of the maneuver, which involved about 300 policemen, was to surround the demonstrators on three sides. The action brought a barrage of epithets and some rocks and bottles aimed at the police.

As several rocks and bottles fell toward him at 15th Street and Constitution Avenue, Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson announced through a bullhorn, "All persons here are part of an illegal assembly and are ordered to disperse." His order was met by some thrown missiles and shouted obscenitie.

At that point, the crowd, which had already split into two groups on either side of 15th Street, began retreating and splintering into smaller groups.

At one point police used night sticks to disperse demonstrators. That occurred when 100 protestors stationed themselves on the highest point of the Monument grounds, calling it "People's Hill." When protesters hurled rocks at the police, about a dozen officers charged, tackled demonstrators and subdued some with the sticks. Several were arrested.

At about 4:10 p.m., between 100 and 200 demonstrators entered the Museum of History and Technology through the Mall entrance and guards herded them out the Constitution Avenue entrance. There were no injuries and no damage, according to a guard captain.

After the building was entered, several squads of CDU officers took up positions in front. Scooters were used to scatter protesters as they left, dividing the crowd even more.

By 5 p.m., the demonstrators were scattered into a dozen groups, none numbering more than 100. Shortly afterward, the march had made a complete circle back to L'Efant Square, where it started.

About 4:30, Chief Wilson made a police broadcast to his field commanders, saying "Your men all looked very good today." Deputy Mayor Graham Watt monitored the demonstration from the Command Center at headquarters. Mayor Walter E. Washington arrived there about 5:30.

Some of the Conspiracy demonstrators later attended a community dinner and "rap session" at the Nash Methodist Church, Rhode Island Avenue and Lincoln Street NE.

This story was written by Washington Post staff writer William Clairborne based on reports filed by staff writers Alfred E. Lewis, Paul Valentine, Carl Bernstein, B. D. Colen and Martin Weil.